

USAID-COMPETE PARTNER FUNDING SUPPORT TO EAGC

MONTHLY REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2012

A. INTRODUCTION

This report from Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) is for the period of December 2012 covering the activities implemented under USAID-COMPETE funding support. The Grant which was signed on 20th November 2012 is aimed at building the capacity of grain stakeholders to participate in structured grain trade in the region while working towards attaining the following specific objectives:

- i). Facilitate institutional strengthening to enable EAGC to deliver services to its stakeholders across the region
- ii). Build the capacities of grain warehouse keepers and graders to improving the efficiency of grain handling and marketing operations.
- iii). Support the implementation of harmonized regional staple foods quality standards at national levels
- iv). Build sustainability of RATIC by engaging with other MIS service providers
- v). Maintain the development of the regional Food Balance Sheet



COMPETE-EAGC grant signing ceremony on 20th November 2012

B. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

a) Membership Recruitment

EAGC recruited 4 new members during the month, bringing the total number of members to 114. The four members recruited in Tanzania and Uganda are:

- (i) Pembe Flour Mills Ltd-Tanzania
- (ii) Agasha Group Ltd-Uganda
- (iii) Elshaday Ltd-Uganda
- (iv) Pura Organic Agrotech Ltd-Uganda

b) EAGC Co-hosts the East Africa Agricultural Value Chain Investment Summit in Kampala, Uganda

EAGC co-hosted the East Africa Value Chain Investment Summit which was held on 4th Dec to 6th Dec 2012 at Speke Resort Munyonyo and was attended by over 100 delegates from Uganda, the Eastern Africa region, Europe and Asia.

The topics of discussion during the summit included:

- Grain sector in Eastern Africa and investment opportunities in the grain value chains;
- Agricultural Production in East Africa with specific focus on cereals production, yields, food security, comparison with selected areas in the world, catch-up potential, potential drivers;
- “Where India has come from to become a major food exporter” Lessons for East Africa.

C. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

a) Structured Trading Systems (STS)

Revision of the Second Edition of the EAGC STS Handbook

Following the STS Writeshop in Arusha on 23-27 July 2012, the editor has been revising and editing all manuscripts prepared and submitted by the authors.

In December, a revised copy of the STS handbook was circulated by the editor for the authors to give it a second time review. The revision was completed and the editor is doing the final editing to incorporate the illustrations and images before the publication is laid out. The final version of the handbook is expected to be completed, printed and distributed by end of February.

Preparations for warehouse operators and graders training in Uganda and Tanzania

EAGC will be conducting the training of warehouse operators and graders in Uganda and Tanzania. The trainings have been scheduled to take place on 29th-31st January 2012 in Jinja, Uganda and on 12th – 14th February 2012 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The preparations for the training are underway. The course content, invitation letters, registration forms and check list for the warehouses that will be used for practical sessions were developed. Lists of potential warehouses have been generated and invited will be sent in early January 2013. It's anticipated that at least 30 warehouse operators will be trained per country.

EAGC is in the process of identifying skilled trainers in each country and external trainers to support the training effort.

b) Market Information Systems

MIS service through RATIN (monitoring, analysis and reporting)

EAGC continued to engage market and borders monitors to collect daily information. Data generated was relayed to RATIN for analysis and developing market reports. In order to improve the quality of reporting and analysis of the data, EAGC developed a template for weekly reporting. The template will be tested in January 2013 where all the reports coming from the monitors will be analyzed and compiled into a single Regional Market Analysis Report.

Development of NFBS Tracker

EAGC has been maintaining an updating the Regional Food Balance Sheet EAGC. In December, the NFBS tracker for Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda that shows all potential private sector contributors and the status of their engagement was developed.

Regional Real Time Warehouse Volume Tracking (RTVT)

EAGC intends to roll out RTVT to 12 warehouses in the region. This system will monitor grain volumes in all mapped warehouses and feed into the RFBS. In the month of December, the IT consultant was engaged by COMPETE. The consultant was to develop a mobile application to track Real Time volumes and train warehouse operators on RTVT Data Transmission. EAGC reviewed the SOW for the consultant with COMPETE and the consultant and the tripartite agreement with a harmonized schedule of works signed.

Among the accomplished tasks are:

- a) Development of RTVT real-time data transmission mobile application.
- b) Development of RTVT Database.
- c) Development of RTVT SMS query strings.
- d) A spreadsheet of 19 storage facilities has been created. From the spreadsheet a list of 12 warehouses from each of the EAC countries and Malawi will be used to create the RTVT prototype.
- e) Introduction letters and enrolment forms will be sent out in January 2013. An evaluation form for the country staff to assess the suitability of warehouses was developed and availed to the staff.
- f) The harmonization of RATIN maps is also ongoing with five separate maps merged into single map.

Engagement of RATIN Monitors

EAGC has engaged 8 market monitors to support in data collection at the Market and Border points in the region. Last month EAGC embarked on the monitors' recruitment process in strategic grain markets that were not covered RATIN. Additional monitors were recruited to cover Kisumu in Kenya, Iringa and Mwanza in Tanzania, Kasese in Uganda and Ruhengeri in Rwanda. The exercise took place between December 17 and 23, 2012 in the four countries. The monitors recruited are:

- Mark Otieno Odera-Kisumu, Kenya
- Eric Ntwari- Ruhengeri, Rwanda.
- Joshua Muhindo- Kasese, Uganda
- Shaban Lubatillah- Iringa, Tanzania
- Shaban Lubatillah- Mwanza, Tanzania

After the recruitment, all the monitors were extensively trained on various methods of data collection, transmission through the smart phone to Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network (RATIN) and Weekly Report Compilation. The monitors were also duly equipped with the smart phone, a tool necessary for discharging the tasks and trained on the use of the same. By the time the Interview team was leaving the areas, all the monitors had already started collecting and transmitting the data using the smart phone allocated. They also submitted their first weekly Reports on Friday, December 22, 2012 demonstrating their ability to carry out the tasks.

During the same period, set-up for real-time data transmission of market prices was done in of six new markets; Kasese in Uganda, Kisumu in Kenya, Iringa, Dar es Salaam and Mwanza in Tanzania and Ruhengeri in Rwanda . The new market monitors recorded GPS coordinates using the mobile application of their locations and now they will be in a position to transmit market data from their locations using their smart-phones.

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EAGC MANAGEMENT